

HELLO AGAIN

VOL 17 NO. 6

NOV-DEC 1986

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS: The FRIENDS OF OLD-TIME RADIO had its annual Convention on October 24th and 25th, 1986, at the Holiday Inn-North, Newark, New Jersey. Many celebrities were present. Those receiving awards were: Warren Bryan, Vivian Della Chiesa, Alfred De La Fuente, Louise Erickson, Gilbert Mack, Shirley Mitchell, Sara Seegar, Willard Waterman. Other guests present were: George Ansbrosio, Jackson Beck, Ward Byron, Fran Carlon, Lon Clark, Nancy Coleman, Humphrey Davis, Ruth Franklin, Jimmy Fiedler, Ed Herlihy, Pat Hosley, Raymond Edward Johnson, Evie Juster, Ann Loring, Peg Lynch, Ted Malone, James Monks, Bill Owen, Alice Reinheart, Rosa Rio, Ken Roberts, Lynne Rogers, Adele Ronson, Terry Ross and Bob Luban, Ruth Russell, Sidney Slon, Ezra Stone, Arthur Tracy, Blair Walliser, Dwight Weist, Florence Williams, Betty Wragge, Alice Yourman. The guests socialized with fans and re-created 3 radio shows.

The convention began on Friday at 12:00 noon when the dealers tables opened. There were 34 tables used...172 people attended the dinner with another 39 in the afternoon. Video tapes of radio-tv shows were shown both days with 2 special Great Gildersleeve tv shows brought in by Willard Waterman. Workshops included: Repair of tape recorders (M. Schantzen); Computers (T Monroe); Situation comedy panel with Peg Lynch and Willard Waterman (R Lackmann and C Lembesis); Suspense (G Yoggy). After dinner an episode of The Whistler was re-created. Musical entertainment, trivia and sing-a-long was then presented by Jay Hickerson.

On Saturday at 9:00 dealers tables opened and workshops started including: Collecting Experts (R Barnett); Trivia using game shows (M Weisberg); Restoring old radios (D Roth); Lon Clark reminiscing about Nick Carter on its 100th anniversary; Tom Mix re-creation by Dave Warren and his exciting acting troupe; An hour with Raymond Edward Johnson; Music panel (T DeLong); re-creation of The Aldrich Family starring and directed by Ezra Stone with several members of the original cast.

Saturday's events culminated with cocktails and a buffet feast for 287 people. Approximately 420 people attended the entire day. After dinner Gilbert Mack entertained us with songs; Blair Walliser reminisced about his early days; Rosa Rio presented a selection of show tunes and then joined with Ted Malone for "Between the Bookends." The Great Gildersleeve was then re-created with Willard Waterman in the starring role with Shirley Mitchell and Louise Erickson in their original roles. Music was supplied by Rosa Rio and sound effects were by Terry Ross and Bob Luban.

The awards were then given. A special award was presented to Max Schmid for the work he and Jack Shugg have done with their show on WBAI, The Golden Age of Radio. The Allen Rockford Award was given to Frank Bresee for the 20 years of his show, "The Golden Days of Radio." SPERDVAC presented Jay Hickerson with a special congratulatory award. SPERDVAC was very well represented with almost their entire board present.

I want to again thank all the guests who were very gracious in granting interviews and giving their time to be with us.

A PERSONAL NOTE: Just a reminder of my new address (Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514)...The supplement to my Circulation Shows Log is still available for \$8.00 (\$6.00 if included with the package mentioned below). I turned 52 on the 25th. Page 13 of my collectors list is available for a SASE (#121-130). NEW SUSPENSE LOG available. Details below.

CONVENTION '86: My special thanks to those who helped at the registration desk (Jan and Dave Easter, Anna Jean and Gary Yoggy, Mary Ramlow, Jeannette Aston, Dave Davies, Ron Lackmann)...Information on how to get pictures, audio and video tapes will be mentioned as soon as information is received.

RADIO IS ALIVE AND WELL: BOB STEELE, WTIC (Hartford) radio personality, celebrated his 50th year with that station on October first. Bob has been the morning man on that station since March, 1943, 6 days a week..THE NATIONAL BROADCAST MUSEUM "SUPERSTATION" suspended all broadcasts via SATCOM 4, TRANSPONDER 21 (audio 6.2) on August 11th but will return on another satellite (to be announced). This popular audio service offered old-time radio programs and vintage music...Charles Michelson writes that WMCA in New York is running many favorite shows from 9-10 pm, some uncirculated. Sponsoring the Lone Ranger is Kauffman Saddlery Co. in New York. If you like what you hear write Carey Davis, Mgr, WMCA, 888 7th Ave, NYC, NY 10019.

On Nov. 13th, Campbell Soups made a special announcement concerning the rebroadcasts of many of their Campbell Playhouse. They will air the week of Dec 7. Handling distribution is Chicago-based Public Interest Affiliates. As of Nov 17 only 26 of the 55 episodes had been restored for airplay. There are at least 40 available as far as I know. At least 85 stations will be broadcasting them...Charles Michelson is offering 52 weeks of the Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy Show...The CBC celebrated its 50th anniversary on Nov 1st and 2nd with two days of special programming. For copies (8 hours) contact Bob Proctor, Box 362, Saline, MI 48176 for details. Bob also mentions that WEMU-FM (89.1) at Eastern Michigan Univ. aired one 3-part original radio drama on Nov 10, 17, 24 and will air a second one, "The Cleveland Spit" on Dec 8, 15, 22. Both are murder mysteries. A few original university-circuit radio productions are making rounds from Pennsylvania Radio Theater, 244 Westover Dr., New Cumberland, PA 17070; Chicago Radio Theater; Western Public Radio, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA 94123.

Also playing OTR is WEEI-AM (590) in Boston; hosted by Ken Meyer, Tues-Sat 8-10 pm.; WHAM-AM (1180) Rochester, NY Mon-Fri 10-11 pm...Over \$126,000 was raised for the Veteran's Bedside Network by a radiothon held Nov. 11 on WOR in New York. The Network provides entertainment to bedridden veterans in 9 New York area hospitals.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED: NARA NEWS, Vol 14, No. 1; various articles including one by me, reflecting about the last 16 years...SOUNDS OF YESTERDAY, #4, articles on horror on radio, Allen's Alley...SPERDVAC, Sep; articles on John Archer, Jerry Hausner...Oct; article on Ivan Ditmars..MARE Newsletter, Oct; articles on Frank Nelson and Jimmy Wallington.

BOOKS and MAGAZINES: MA PERKINS, LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE AND HEIGH YO, SILVER by Charles Stumpf has been reprinted with many more pictures (the same text) by World of Yesterday. Bob Burnham, Box 39522, Redford, MI 48239 is selling them for \$9 plus postage.

BOB BURNHAM also has written his revised Technical Guide, Volume 2. It is 126 pages long and contains virtually everything you need to know to collect OTR shows. Cost is \$12.95 until Jan 1, 1987 when it becomes \$14.95.

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY Bob Burnham's book and my log of Circulating Shows are being offered as a package with a 15% savings (\$25.95 for both books). My supplement to Circulating Shows will be included for \$6.00 (\$31.95 for all three) sent 4th class. Add \$2.50 if sent first class. If you just want Bob's book, write to Bob. If you want the package send the appropriate amount to me. (The Circulating Log and the supplement only are \$23.00 if purchased together.)

SUSPENSE: My original SUSPENSE Log was written in 1971. I have finally computerized it with many revisions and additions. It lists date, title, and up to two performers when known. The cost, with an introductory part listing directors, producers, musicians, sponsors and other important information is \$8.00. This includes a chronological list and an alphabetical list.

LOGS: Supplement #5 to my Jack Benny log is available. Please send me a SASE.

NEW ADDRESSES: GARY KEEFER, 227B Market St, Leechburg, PA 15656..
GEORGE DRISKO, 24 Oak St, Springvale, ME 04083...DON RICHARDSON, Box 2281, Syracuse, NY 13220.

NEW FRIENDS AND RETURNEES: KAREN OSWALT, Box 905, Ketchum, ID 83340 looking for tapes of Roxy's Gang. Her husband's grandfather was Roxy Rothapfel. I don't know of any available...JIM THEIS, Rt 2 Box 212B, Robertsville, MO 63072...DON ELLIS, 101 Tremont St, Boston, MA 02108...GENE BRADFORD, 19706 Elizabeth St, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080...PETE SCHINDLER, 5 Humphrey Rd, Derry, NH 03038...MARY LOU WALLACE, 155 Aberdeen Ter, Syracuse, NY 13206...BILL BRASIE, 4115 N Prairie, Schiller Park, IL 60176...DICK KING, 900 W Quincy, Englewood, CO 80110...JOHN EDWARDS, 1118 Buttercup Ln, Plainfield, IL 60544...TONY SCHAFER, 48 Mammoth Hall Tr, Scarborough, Ontario, M1B 1P6...JOE TENAGLIA, Box 1461, Boston, MA 02104...CHARLES STUMPF, 123 West Blaine St, McAdoo, PA 18237. Note Charles's book above.

MICHAEL MURPHY, 24 Dunwell St, West Roxbury, MA 02132...DON MARIS, Box 111266, Arlington, TX 76007. Don and I go back to 1970. He used to put out a nostalgic newsletter and recently was chairman of a 2-day CHILDHOOD TREASURES Convention in Dallas, Texas...Debbie Piroch, Mt. Holyoke College, So. Hadley, MA 01075. Debbie is a student who hopes to have her own OTR show on WMHC-FM (91.5) next semester. She has about 200 shows on cassette and also belongs to Jeannette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy Fan Clubs...TOM JUNKINS, Box 4701, Hayward, CA 94540...Rev. RAYMOND WOOD, St. James Rectory, 4845 Sso. Salina St, Syracuse, NY 13205...ALLAN SHERRY, 5410 Netherland Ave, Riverdale, NY 10471. Allan is very interested in announcers and newsmen. He also specializes in railroads and collects coins...GEORGE COLE, 92-30 56 Ave, Elmhurst, NY 11373. George has 30 movie serials and is looking for 40 additional titles...GENE EWAN, 202 Church St, Atco, NJ 08004.

OLD FRIENDS: TOM HEATHWOOD, 22 Broadlawn Park, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167 has a variety of ET's available for sale including network, AFRS, syndicated, Public Service Programs, big bands, classical music; some 78's

and V discs also. Send a SASE for list and specify area of interest. He also has 1 videocassette for sale (The Jazz Age, NBC-tv, 1981 and Remember When with Dick Cavett, HBO)..MAX SALATHIEL, 4712 Spiva Dr, Del City, OK 73115 still looking for video tapes of movies with radio characters. One dealer who specializes in video tapes of tv shows and "B" movies is Dave Miller (M & M Enterprises), 708 Springbrook, Allen, TX 75002 (214) 727-2679. Most of the video tapes of tv shows based on radio shows that we show at our convention were purchased from him...PHIL EVANS, Box 136, Bakersfield, CA 93302 wants any Edgar Bergen-Charlie McCarthy Show with Al Jolson. One date is 8/16/42 but I don't think it is available...CHARLIE SCHWARTZBARD, 134 Abbe Ln, Clifton, NJ 07013 sent me his catalog of sports broadcasts. He has over 500 broadcasts including 1936, game 3 of the World Series and the 1957 NFL title game; also hockey, basketball and boxing. He is looking for more. He supplies cassettes but collects on reel also...BILL CUNNINGHAM, 4911 NW 48th Ave, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33319 looking for Ripley's Believe it or Not; Kraft Music Hall; Bing Crosby Philco Show; CBS is There. DICK HAYES, 59 Myrtle Ave, Cranston, RI 02910 believes that someone has 50 Kate Smith Speaks programs about 1947. If anyone knows who does, please contact him. Dick is an authority on Kate Smith and has the largest collection of KS radio shows. He expects soon to have the only known complete Kate Smith Hour in existence (12/9/37). There are many AFRS versions. This would be the first full-hour CBS program with commercials. Dick will make cassette copies from the disc for anyone with something of interest to trade.

IN FOND MEMORY: MARK HIRAM HAWLEY, Sep 5, 76; radio announcer (Guy Lombardo, Mr. District Attorney)...BETTY AHNBERG, Sep 15, 55; creator of Your Story Hour...ELEANOR ENGLE, Sep 3, 77; actress and poet. Chicago radio actress...DAVID NEWELL, Sep 26, 88; author, explorer, radio and tv host (NBC Children's Hour, Fishing and Hunting Club)...DAVID RUBINOFF, Oct 6, 89...concert violinist and performer on radio (Eddie Cantor)...JACK POPPELE, Oct 7, 88; innovative radio and television pioneer who was instrumental in founding WOR...KEENEN WYNN, Oct 14, 70; entertainer in many fields including radio (Amazing Mr. Smith, The Shadow)...PEGGY BECKMARK, Aug 30, 79; wrote Tena and Tim...IVOR FRANCIS, Oct 22, 68; character actor (radio-Ma Perkins, Suspense)...PAUL FREES, Nov 1, 66; leading voiceover performer and animation vocal actor. Did voiceovers for many characters in commercials, cartoons, tv shows; also on radio (Escape, Suspense)...BEATRICE KAY, Nov 8, 79; singer. The "gay nineties" girl was on radio from 1940-46...JERRY COLONNA, Nov 21, 82; comedian (Bob Hope show)

How many of these OTR publications do you remember: News and Reviews (Bob Burnham), The Sounds of Yesterday (Allen Rockford and Don Richardson), Radio in Depth (Marion David Wedin), The Golden Days of Radio (Robert Costello), Replay (Joanne Burger), National Radio Trader (Phil Cole), The Great Radio Shows (Thomas Riggs), Radio Dial (Charlie Ingersoll), Radio Historian (Thomas Wagner), Airwaves (Jerry Chapman and Joe Webb/Andy Blatt), No Static Please/Echoes of the Past (Don Pellow and Larry Spalding), Radio Nostalgia (Virgil James), Golden Radio Journal (Roy Bright), Reminiscing Time (Eric Klarer), Stay Tuned (Bob Joseph), Epilogue (George Jennings), Collectors Corner/Radio Currents (Joe Webb), Oldtime Announcers Club (Ray Poindexter), OTRAFAN (Chuck Seeley), The Thing Wouldn't Die (Mike Ogden), Magic Sounds (Craig Snader Jr.)

* * *

JAY HICKERSON, Box 4321, Hamden, Ct 06514 (203) 248-2887 \$10/year

'Amos'n'Andy' Documentary Release Stirs Controversy

BY AKIVA KAMINSKY

NEW YORK "Amos'n'Andy: Anatomy Of A Controversy" has spawned controversy from its inception and continues to draw fire from certain quarters.

The 55-minute, \$29.95 retrospective was first released to the syndicated broadcast/cable markets in 1984. Formal announcement of the home video release was made at the Video Software Dealers Assn. convention in Las Vegas. Ship date is Oct. 30.

The announcement followed by a few days a major media splash that augured continuing controversy. Producer Michael Avery,

president of the San Diego-based Avery Home Video Co., had just appeared on "Entertainment Tonight" to defend his show against critics who charged him with commercial exploitation.

Willis Edwards, head of the Beverly Hills chapter of the National Assn. of the Advancement of Colored People, appearing on the "ET" segment with Avery, said he was going to suggest to the NAACP's national council that it organize a boycott of the show's retailers.

"For video, that's the kind of publicity you're happy to get," said Avery. "If anybody's going to

(Continued on page 49)

Billboard 10/4/86

'AMOS'N'ANDY

(Continued from page 46)

make a big fuss out of it, everyone's going to want to see it." Continuing such publicity is Avery's main plan for grabbing the public's attention. TV Guide is preparing a four-color spread, he says. Several talk shows have expressed interest in the story.

The video is being distributed by Ray Atherton Distribution, Burbank, Calif. (which bootlegged "Amos'n'Andy" episodes until CBS cracked down), in association with Maljack Productions, Chicago. Maljack Productions has budgeted about \$15,000 for advertising in various video trade magazines.

The package displays the well-known picture of Amos, Andy and the Kingfish in a colorized photo. Avery predicts sales of 10,000-20,000 units for the title through the conventional video specialty store network. The final sales total, however, may ultimately depend on the public's perception of the controversy, which has dogged

the special from its beginning in 1981.

Avery first conceived of this production as an exploration both of the radio and television aspects of the controversy. "We tried to come out with a balanced show, not stacked in favor of 'Amos'n'Andy.'" He didn't expect the program to become controversial itself.

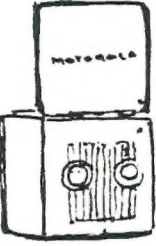
CBS, copyright owner of the 78 extant episodes (produced between 1951 and 1953 and in syndication until 1966), agreed to allow Avery use of 22 minutes of clips at \$2,000 per minute. The network has no plans to rerelease the episodes in any form.

Avery came up with a script and rounded up surviving actors Ernestine Wade (Sapphire) and Alvin Childress (Amos). Nick Stuart (Lightning) did not appear because of financial considerations. Three people associated with the original show, including Wade, passed away between the time CBS granted the license and its airing.

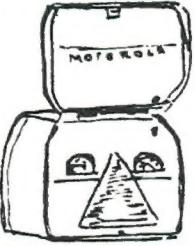
The video, hosted by comedian George Kirby, features interviews with survivors, long-suppressed footage from a virtually complete episode, brief scenes and one-liners, and clips of the original white actors in the radio studio and in black face on film. Black leaders such as Jesse Jackson and retired NAACP public relations director Henry Lee Moon both speak well of the show, as do Redd Foxx and Marla Gibbs.

When Avery's three-year broadcast TV license for use of the clips ran out July 1986, he exercised his video option: CBS granted him a narrow two-year license, which took effect in July. "You'd have to classify it as a sleeper," said Avery. "It made its way out there, aired in a number of markets, and now it's perfect for home video."

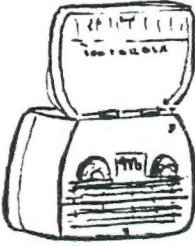
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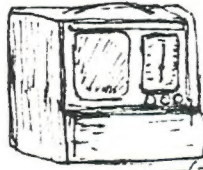
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